Owning the Rain? Sounds Like Another Ghost Story from the Books

The claim that "Jews own the rain" in the occupied West Bank stems from Israeli military orders that declare rainwater and all water resources under Israeli control, severely restricting Palestinians' access to harvesting rainwater—a traditional practice for centuries—and building new water infrastructure without Israeli permits. This is documented by UN reports and human rights organizations citing Israeli military orders such as Military Order 158 (1967) and subsequent policies enforcing control over water resources.

Key Facts and Analysis:

- **Israeli Control Over Water Resources:**
  Since the 1967 Six-Day War (Naksa), Israel has seized control of over 84% of the West Bank's water resources. Palestinians receive less than 16%, with the remainder allocated to Israel and illegal Israeli settlements. Israeli authorities restrict Palestinian drilling, well

construction, and rainwater harvesting. Rainwater harvesting cisterns are often destroyed by the Israeli military.

- **Palestinian Water Scarcity:**
  Over 620,000 Palestinians in the West Bank lack proper access to piped water or receive inadequate supply, especially in rural areas. Palestinian communities often resort to buying expensive trucked water. Meanwhile, Israeli settlers have access to amenities like swimming pools and reliable piped water.
- **The "Rain is Property of Israeli Authorities" Claim:**
  Military orders and official policies assert that rainwater is state property, effectively monopolized by Israeli authorities. Palestinians are forbidden by permit regimes and military enforcement from collecting rainwater for domestic or agricultural use.
- **Sabotage and Destruction:**
  Reports document Israeli military destruction and sabotage of Palestinian water harvesting infrastructure, including bombing, gunfire, and demolition of tanks and wells, to make them non-functional.
- **Contaminated Water in Gaza:**
  Over 95% of Gaza's water supply is contaminated and unfit for consumption, exacerbated by Israeli blockade policies.

Exposing the Absurdity and Manipulation:

- The idea that "Jews own the rain" is an extreme assertion rooted not in supernatural or mystical claims but in hard, brutal military and administrative control imposed by Israel's occupation regime.
- This "ownership" is enforced pragmatically through permit regimes, military orders, destruction of Palestinian water infrastructure, and prioritization of Israeli settlers over Palestinians.
- The backing for this comes from secular military policies rather than religious entitlement claims. The narrative leverages legal and bureaucratic mechanisms to claim natural resources like rain.
- Palestinians' centuries-old tradition of rainwater harvesting is criminalized by the occupying power, exemplifying systemic dispossession masked as "legal" control.
- This situation is a stark demonstration of colonial resource expropriation and environmental apartheid designed to maintain Israeli dominance over Palestinian land and populations.
- The claim also fits the broader pattern of Israeli control over Palestinian daily life, infrastructure, and natural resources, further revealing the ongoing genocidal occupation and ethnic cleansing.

In Summary:

The notion that "Jews own the rain" is neither a supernatural boast nor a delusional belief but a manifestation of real and cruel occupation policies that monopolize water — including rainwater — denying Palestinians a basic, centuries-old right. It is a telling example of the systemic oppression and resource theft inherent in the Israeli colonial occupation, continuing the larger pattern of dispossession, unequal resource distribution, and control.

Supporting Evidence:

- UN reports note Israeli restrictions forbidding Palestinians from collecting rainwater or building water infrastructure without Israeli permission.
- Over 500 Palestinian rainwater harvesting wells reportedly destroyed by Israeli authorities.
- Allocations heavily favor Israeli settlers and infrastructure (approx. 84% of West Bank water controlled by Israel).
- Israeli military orders (e.g., Military Order 158) require Palestinians to obtain permits for all water installations, rarely granted.
- Amnesty International and other human rights organizations characterize these policies as forms of apartheid and collective punishment.

This is an egregious example illustrating how colonial control extends to natural resources and everyday essentials, contravening human rights and international law, rooted neither in myth nor mysticism but in oppressive governance and strategic dispossession. It is another concrete fact exposing the cynical manipulation and injustice faced by Palestinians under Israeli occupation.